



FOREWORD



*W*e are most fortunate that the vibrant history of judicial branch administration has been laid out for us in the Administrative Office of the California Courts' first formal chronicle, *Committed to Justice: The Rise of Judicial Administration in California*.

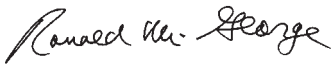
Ably rendered by Larry Sipes, this first-ever history of California court administration from statehood to the close of the twentieth century illuminates the debates, challenges, setbacks, and victories of the judges, attorneys, legislators, and others who together built what today is the largest and most successful court system in the world.

Mr. Sipes is uniquely qualified to undertake this project. He is a native Californian who previously served as executive director of the state's Constitution Revision Commission. As the former president of the National Center for State Courts, he is a noted national leader in court administration. Most recently, he served as the inaugural scholar-in-residence for the Administrative Office of the California Courts. His distinguished and varied career has provided him with an in-depth understanding of the most significant events in the 150-year construction of our modern and far-flung court system.


This scholarly presentation first focuses on the most important milestones in our court system's history. In the final chapter, Mr. Sipes applies his background and insight to look ahead at what lies in store for our system during the first fifty years of the new millennium. We anticipate that this publication will be of interest to the legal community, informative for researchers and historians, and useful to policymakers from every branch of government. Without question, it will be a valuable resource for all of us—whether judges, court administrators, staff of the Administrative Office

of the California Courts, members of the bar or the public, or officials from the other branches of California government—as we work together to meet the challenges that lie ahead for our branch.

As this book demonstrates, our judicial branch has a long tradition of working cooperatively with others in our state and our nation to ensure that California’s courts provide fair and accessible justice for all. This fine contribution adds enormously to our understanding of how best to administer our courts and will greatly assist us in remaining “committed to justice.”

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ronald M. George". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "R" and "G".

Ronald M. George
Chief Justice of California

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William C. Vickrey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "W" and "V".

William C. Vickrey
Administrative Director of the California Courts